

AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS

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FRUIT GROWING.

By J. B. MORRAN.

Practical Horticulturist Formerly Connected With the Dept. of Agriculture.

Many fruits, such as peaches, strawberries, raspberries, are very perishable. They must be picked at the right time, packed properly and marketed promptly to bring good prices. The grower runs big risks when he stands alone. The season is short, lasting only a few weeks at the most. The grower must be able to take advantage of the best conditions or failure stares him in the face. He may deal with an honest commission merchant and yet gain little or nothing for his fruit. It may spoil on the road or the market may be overstocked when the price surely falls. This spells failure, and it is an every day occurrence. For this reason co-operation has spread rapidly among fruit growers in all parts of the country with splendid results.

Even Missouri does not have to be shown. In fact, Missouri can show us something worth while when it comes to a question of co-operation among growers of small fruits. One man with 570 trees on less than three acres reports a net profit of \$873. Another with ten acres reports a net profit of more than \$1,500. These incomes are not unusual among small fruit growers in the Ozark region when they are used into cooperative societies.

It is practically impossible for growers of strawberries and peaches in Missouri to sell their crops at a profit if they try to market them without co-operation. Before the Ozark Fruit Growers' association was formed many strawberry growers were selling out because of poor prices, but now strawberry farming is probably the most prosperous line of agriculture in the state. The chief benefit has been brought about by shipping to towns and cities where the supplies of fruit were not large. The manager of the society is in daily communication with all available markets.

Other benefits are the establishment of fruit brands that have become known to the trade, are sought in the market and bring high prices. The growers have acquired better business methods. They have better facilities for handling their crops, and they take better care of their orchards because it pays them to do so. There is room for progress, but by educating fruit growers through the local press in the disadvantages of co-operation there is no reason why the growing of perishable fruits may not be made a safe and profitable business practically everywhere.

MOLTING

By J. W. KELLER

Practical Breeder and Poultry Expert.

Supposing in the hottest part of summer, after three weeks of hard work, you had to make an entire new outfit of clothes for the coming winter. You would find it a pretty big job, and so does the hen. Forced to lay eggs all the winter, set for three weeks in spring and then burdened

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with a family for many weeks more she no sooner seems to deserve a rest than she is called upon to grow an entirely new coat of feathers for the coming winter.

Even wild birds become listless, lose their song and often their power of flight during molting, and it is even harder on the domestic fowl which does much heavier work. Ordinarily the first full molt comes at about sixteen months old, but chicks molt continually until matured, and sometimes early spring pullets molt in the fall.

Godan nourishing food with plenty of greens may be given during this trying period, and, providing the birds are not overfat at the start, feed scraps and oilmeal are valuable if used in moderation. In addition most successful poultrymen use a good poultry regulator or tonic, which is quite generally agreed to be an absolute necessity for fowls kept under present artificial conditions.

If the weather be warm considerable corn may be fed, provided the birds have cool runs. The importance of giving all the run or range possible during the molt cannot be overestimated. It affords valuable opportunity for exercise and obtaining aids to the general health. There is a method of molting which hastens a molt. One sure and humane way is to pluck from the bird's body such feathers as appear to be dead and will clip out if these feathers do not come away easily or appear frayed and bloody this should not be done.

While the above is written about hens remember that to the males after long, hard breeding season, molting is just as serious. Male birds molt more slowly when kept with females, so they should be separated from them during this time but they may be fed and treated like hens. Remember, the male is one-half your flock, so keep him strong and vigorous. While birds are weakened during molting they are easy prey for disease, so keep everything clean and disinfected liberally. Perhaps you now realize what an important and trying a thing a molt is. Care deferred now will pay you big returns later, for your birds are not loafing, but working on a big job.

THE FARMER'S OWN DEPARTMENT.

The Department of Agriculture believes that farming is a business and must be made to yield a profit. The home is part of the business plant, and for this reason the department makes public methods of saving money, labor and waste motion.

The work falls into two fields: (a) the protective side; (b) increased production and increased profit side.

On the protective side note the department's campaign to aid the farmer to overcome plant disease, to prevent and destroy ravages of insects and other pests and blights and to deal effectively with contagious diseases and epidemics among plants and animals.

On the constructive side the government's work begins with the actual soil. The bureau of soils has for years been making complete soil analyses and has furnished each county studied with complete maps showing the nature of the soil, the crops best suited and how to treat the soils.

The dairy division conducts work to cut feed costs, heretofore, to produce and ship dairy products with greatest profit and to increase values.

Another bureau pays special attention to poultry, showing how to produce eggs and dressed poultry so as to command highest market prices. Other bureaus search the world for new products which the farmer might be profitably raised on American soil.

The biological survey specializes on the protection of birds and wild animals which are beneficial to farming, and on the eradication of animal pests.

The cost of handling farm produce over bad roads can easily run up to 25 cents a ton a mile and so make it impossible to compete on equal terms with producers located on good roads. The department maintains a special office of public roads which is conducting extensive experiments to secure good roads over which the farmer may haul his produce to market.

An office of markets will investigate thoroughly the possibilities of supplying farmers with market information and will endeavor to aid them in co-operative and other forms of selling.

This office also will take up the questions of shipping farm products. The department is ready and anxious to see that every farmer receives the benefits of its service.

BALANCED RATIONS

What They Mean to the Dairyman.
By LAURA ROSE STEPHEN,
Of Ontario Agricultural College, Author of "Farm Dairies."

Properly fed cows are better milkers, produce stronger healthier calves; are better able to withstand sickness and disease and changes in climate; are always ready to sell.

Moderately high feeding costs, but it pays. There is no economy so false as shortening up the food supply or feeding a ration widely out of balance, and that brings up the question:

"What is a balanced ration?"

A balanced ration is one in which the three chief food principles—protein, carbohydrates and fat—are in the right proportions.

If a cow is to do her best she must get a liberal supply of properly combined food. One pound of protein to six pounds of carbohydrates and fat is the right proportion.

The protein in the food is the expensive element. It is that which forms muscles in the body and the casing or rind in the milk.

The carbohydrates are the cheap portion. They are the starch and sugar of plants and perform a like office in the body as does the fat. Green fodder, corn silage, hay and roots of all kinds are high carbohydrate foods. Gluten, cottonseed and linseed meals, peas, wheat bran and oats contain a high per cent of protein.

Alfalfa hay is particularly rich in this valuable constituent. A ton has as much value for cows as a ton of bran.

It is the bulky foods that form the big part of a cow's ration. If you own a big cow remember her stomach is capable of holding forty gallons. So give her plenty of feed and water. She needs nothing in summer but good grass, fresh water, a lump of rock salt and the shade of a tree.

In winter you may give the same cow forty pounds of good corn silage, twenty to thirty pounds of pulped roots, four pounds of cut straw and clover hay, four pounds each of bran and crushed oats and one pound of oil cake. Give this in two feeds and a little long hay at noon, and you'll not be far off a balanced ration.

Feed the grain according to the milk flow.

A heavy milker requires a much larger ration of meal than does a cow with a small milk flow. A cow that is fed a large quantity of starchy foods and a small amount of meals rich in protein may draw upon the reserve system but she will soon go down in flesh and her milking period will be shortened.

Aunt Sally's Advice to Beauty Seekers

W. C. D. says: "My face is freckled the year round; nothing I try seems to help much. Is there anything that will really take off these horrid spots? Have you tried the treatment recommended to Minnie L.?"

Ellen B. asks: "What should I do for deep lines under my eyes and across my forehead? Such lines, and all wrinkles, are best obliterated by bathing affected portions in a good astringent and tonic lotion, which strengthens and draws in the relaxed tissue. Here's a reliable formula: 1 oz. powdered salicylic acid, 1 pt. witch hazel, mix and use daily until entirely relieved."

Minnie L.: "The undue redness as well as the pimples, may easily be removed by using ordinary mercurized wax. Apply nightly like cold cream, and erase mornings with warm water. Soon you'll have a beautifully white, clear, soft and velvety complexion, mercurized wax, sold by all druggists, is better than cosmetics for any complexion troubles. One ounce suffices for most conditions.—Woman's Realm."

38 SITUATIONS SECURED.
In Norwich Through State Free Public Employment.

The result of operation of the five free public employment bureaus in the state for the month of September shows a gain in number of positions supplied over the month of August. Of the total number of applicants for employment 61.1 percent were supplied with situations as against 60.8 percent in August.

Hartford had 149 applications for employment, 291 applications for help and supplied 253 situations; New Haven had 560 applications for employment, 296 applications for help and supplied 211 situations; Bridgeport had 347 applications for employment, 291 applications for help and 236 situations were supplied; Waterbury had 214 applications for employment, 144 applications for help and 38 situations were secured.

Owing to the continued advance in the price of stock, blacksmiths in some places advanced their prices, beginning yesterday, Oct. 15.

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TUBBS' BAND

LEDGER WAS HIGH.
Scored 7310 in Play of West Side Pinochle Club.

Ledger had high score at Wednesday evening's meeting of the West Side Pinochle club and moved up into ninth place. Underwood was second and went to eighth place. The night's scores follow: Ledger 7310, Underwood 7175, Schütz 6850, Pettis 6810, Larsen 6720, J. Jordan 6470, Pendleton 6440, Bailey 6290, A. Jordan 6260, Baker 6145, Hallisey 6120, Opitz 5620.

The standing is as follows: Bailey 28195, Pettis 21110, Schütz 29955, J. Jordan 26815, Larsen 26435, Pendleton 25985, Baker 25750, Underwood 25615, Ledger 26605, Hallisey 25390, Opitz 24285, A. Jordan 24165.

Epworth League Business Meeting.
The regular business meeting of the

Epworth League of the Trinity M. E. church was held Monday evening at the rooms of J. C. Elmer, the president, in the Y. M. C. A. building. Following the business meeting a pleasant social time was enjoyed, games being played and refreshments served.

District Superintendent G. G. Scriven of Norwich goes to Glasgow tomorrow to preside at the quarterly conference in the Methodist church Friday evening.

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